USDA United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry | 180 Canfield Street Morgantown, WV 26505-3101

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Date: February 26, 2009

Gary Felder, Environmental Planner
Andrews Air Force Base
316 CES/CEA
3466 North Carl Avenue
Andrews Air Force Base, MD 20762-4803

Dear Mr. Felder:

The emerald ash borer (EAB) is an invasive beetle that has been found in western Pennsylvania, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Maryland, Missouri, Wisconsin, Virginia, and West Virginia. Since its accidental introduction sometime in the late 1990s, this beetle has caused the loss of tens of millions of dollars in damage to ash trees across the Midwest and has produced wide-ranging quarantines regulating the movement of ash trees and wood products in the hopes of preventing further spread. EAB impacts all North American species of ash and can be unintentionally spread over long distances through the transport of trees and wood products, such as nursery stock and firewood.

On August 28, 2003, emerald ash borer infested trees were by found by a Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) inspector at a nursery in Prince George's County, MD. The Maryland Department of Agriculture imposed quarantine for portions of Prince George's County. In 2008 the beetle was found in Charles County and this County was added to the State quarantine order.

In mid-May 2009, purple prism traps will be hung in host [ash] trees throughout the State of Maryland. These sticky traps will be baited to attract EAB adults. Traps will be monitored several times throughout the summer and removed in the fall. This trap survey is part of a statewide, multi-agency effort to detect other areas that have EAB. Please note that these traps will not attract EAB to your area but instead will determine if adult beetles may already be present in the immediate area. These traps do not pose a threat to human health or wildlife.

A copy of the EAB pest alert that describes the insect and the type of damage that it causes is enclosed. Please give this document wide distribution and encourage your staff to become familiar with this insect and its associated damage. We would like you to inform all recreation staff, including seasonal employees that work in campgrounds, since it is believed that heavily used recreation areas have a high probability of becoming infested. Additional copies of the pest alert are available by contacting Helen Wassick at 304–285–1527 or by navigating to http://na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/pest_al/eab/eab04.htm.

The EAB has become a major forest pest of ash in the eastern United States. It cannot be stressed enough that this insect is coming, and plans need to be made now to deal with the impact this insect will have on your recreational and forest resources. Educational

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information about EAB is available through this office along with the MDA, Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the USDA APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine office in Baltimore MD. Please contact the Morgantown Field Office if we can assist in developing an EAB strategy and action plan for your site.

All federal partners are encouraged to assist in EAB detection and education by allowing trap placement in their area of responsibility. Those interested in participating can contact our office or the MDA for more information at (410)-841-5920 or APHIS at (410)-631-0073.

If you or any of your staff have any questions or comments regarding this survey or any other forest health issue, please contact Rick Turcotte at (304) 285–1503.

Sincerely,

Bob Lueckel

ROBERT LUECKEL
Field Representative
Morgantown Field Office

RMT